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III.—NOTES ON A FEW VESTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

1. In connection with the Vestal inscriptions found in the *Atrium Vestae* in 1882–84, Huelsen, in the fourth part of Volume VI of the *Corpus*, gives a brief but valuable commentary on those previously known.¹ For some reason or other, no reference is made to the inscription VI, 2144, which, as it has seemed to me, on account of its peculiar history merits a brief notice.

The exact time and place in which this inscription was originally found are unknown. Since it is first published by Ligorio²—by whom, however, nothing is said of its location—we may be sure that it was not among those found in 1495 in the Atrium, the greater part of which had been published by Jucundus and Sabinus a half century earlier. In 1549, presumably in the same place, certain other inscriptions are reported by Pighius as exhumed in his presence.³ Although direct mention is made of only two, C. I. L. VI, 2134 and 2139, it is not impossible that No. 2144 may have been discovered at the same time,⁴ although no reference is made to it by any one. Or, as in the case of another inscription in honor of the same *Vestalis Maxima*,⁵ it may have been found in some private house and so have escaped special notice. The inscription is, in any case, first reported by Cittadinus as seen *in aedibus D. Pal(ini?)*,⁶ but at a later time by Ciacconio as *ante aedes decani Rotae prope Capitolium*.⁷ It appears to have been then transferred to the house of M. Giacomo d'Aruzzo, while later it was seen *in vinea Bosii*, or *Caesarina*,⁸ where it was probably copied on March 12th, 1706, by Bianchini.⁹ After this time, since no mention is made of its whereabouts,¹⁰

¹ C. I. L. VI, p. 3296.

² L. c. VI, 2144.

³ L. c. VI, 2134, *me praesente anno 49 extractae e terra*.

⁴ This is the opinion of Gatti, who thinks that its presence at one time in the house of Palini, where No. 2139 is known to have been, points to this fact.

⁵ L. c. VI, 2130.

⁶ L. c. VI, 2144.

⁷ L. c.

⁸ L. c.

⁹ Veron. CCCXLVII, f. 18. 4 *qui desc. die 12 Martii, 1706, ap. C. I. L. VI, 2144.*

¹⁰ A careful copy of the inscription was made by Fea (*Schedae Epigraphicae* II 295; now in the Vatican, No. 10547, according to the older numbering), but with no reference to the place at which it was seen.

it has been supposed that it disappeared, like so many others, into one of Rome's numberless limekilns.

In the year 1901, however, while preparing a list of the Vestal inscriptions in the *Atrium Vestae*, I found, in a prominent position among those discovered in 1882-84, this long-lost one which was easily recognizable on account of certain marked peculiarities. In a photograph also, taken by Alinari¹ earlier in the same year, the base bearing the inscription is seen in the position which it now occupies, next to the entrance. In 1902 it was published by Dessau.² Professor Lanciani, when consulted as to the time and manner of its reappearance, said that, at the time of the excavations in the Atrium—in 1882-83—the inscription was not there, and that he had not known of its appearance there later. Commendatore Boni also stated that, during the time of his directorship, no such inscription had been placed in the Atrium, or brought to the Forum. Commendatore Gatti, whose knowledge of the inscriptions in the Forum as well as throughout the city has extended over many years, is no less positive that no inscriptions, except that from the Palatine,³ have been transferred to the Atrium in modern times. It is impossible that a base containing an inscription of such length should have escaped the notice of Lanciani and of the many others who saw and reported the inscriptions in the years immediately following 1883.⁴ It seems equally impossible that after that time the inscription could have been brought into the Forum without the knowledge of the director. It must, therefore, have been taken to the Forum and to the vicinity of the Atrium at a much earlier period. At the beginning of the last century, after a long period of inaction, a renewed interest was aroused in the Forum excavations. At that time probably, under the direction of Fea or Visconti and in connection, possibly, with the proposed plan for a *Passeggiata Archeologica* uniting the Palatine, Forum and Colosseum, our inscription was transferred from the *vinea Caesarina* to the Atrium,⁵ where in the course of the century it was covered with earth or in some other way lost to view. After the excavations in 1882-83, possibly but a short time before 1901,⁶ the base must have been

¹ No. 17359.

² Inscr. Lat., No. 4927.

³ C. I. L. VI, 2140.

⁴ See C. I. L. VI, p. 3297, for the more important editions of the inscriptions.

⁵ This was first suggested to me by Comm. Gatti.

⁶ It was not in its present place when the inscriptions were edited by Huelsen.

discovered in its hiding place by the workmen and by them placed with the others, without the usual report of its discovery to the director.

The pedestal is 92 centimeters high, 60 centimeters wide and 47 centimeters thick. The lower right-hand corner is broken off. It reads as follows :

TERENTIAE ·
 FLAVVLAE ·
 P \tilde{V} · \tilde{V} ·
 MAX · SORORI ·
 5 TERENTIVS · GENTIAN
 VS · FL · DIALIS · V · C · PR ·
 TVT · CVM · POMPONIA ·
 PAETINA · VXORE · ET ·
 LOLLIANO · GENTIAN ·
 10 FILIO · FRATris

C. I. L. VI, 2144. Dessau, l. c. 4927.

L. 1. To the same Terentia Flavula, or Flavola, belong the inscriptions C. I. L. VI, 2130, 32412-13, 32423. In 204 A. D., in the rites connected with the Ludi Saeculares, she assisted Numisia Maximilla,¹ whom she succeeded within a few years as *Virgo Vestalis Maxima*.²

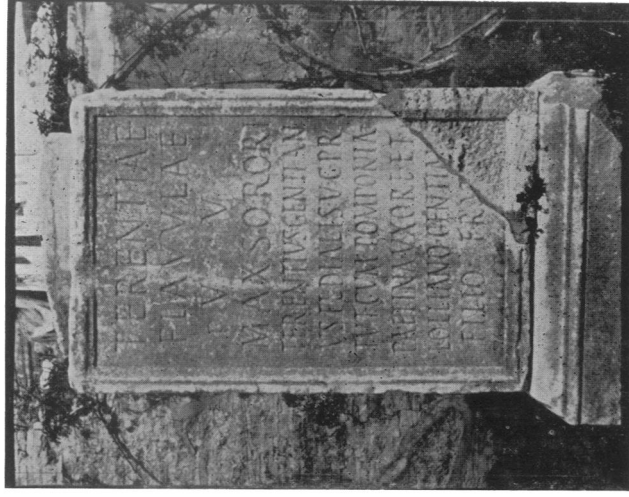
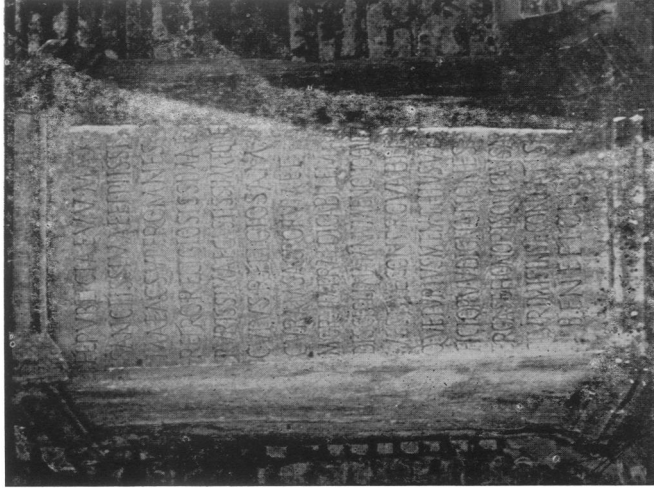
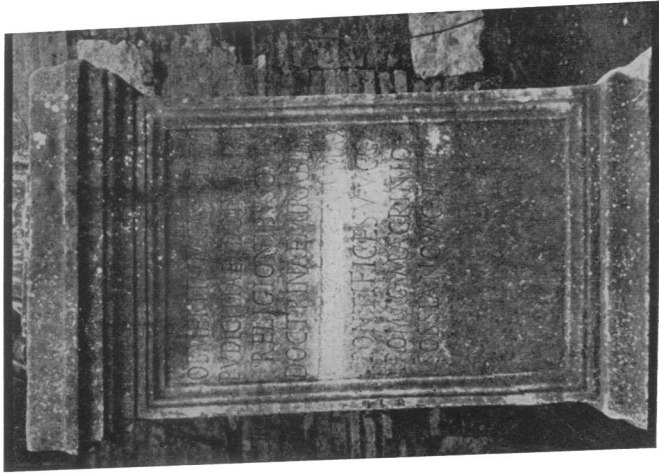
L. 3. P. The presence of this letter was the source of some uncertainty among early editors. It is present on the stone as represented. Its height, however, is but 0.037 m., while the letters in the same and adjacent lines are 0.047 m. high. The cutting, too, differs from the rest of the inscription, being much less firm and less deeply cut. The letter itself is much broader in proportion to its height than the same letter where it occurs in lines 6, 7 and 8, and the loop is more rounded. It must, therefore, be considered an addition made by some thoughtless or malicious person, probably after the stone was set up in the Atrium.

\tilde{V} · \tilde{V} · The placing of a straight or slightly curved line, or of an apex, over the initial letter of a word to denote abbreviation is very rare in the first and not common even in the third and fourth centuries.³ In the Vestal inscriptions, however, it is an accepted

¹ C. I. L. VI, 32328, 35-36 ; 32329, 10; cf. l. c. 2129, 32411.

² For the family tree, see Huelsen, l. c. 32412-13.

³ Huebner, *Exempla Script. Epigr.*, pp. LXXII, LXXVI.



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form, appearing as a simple, straight line even in the inscription of the first century.¹ Among the newer inscriptions, the straight or curved line² occurs in 8 instances³ and the apex² in 5.⁴ In the Vestal inscriptions published earlier, the line is found, in addition to the present case, 4 times⁵ and the apex twice;⁶ there are also three instances of the use of the line where the title is used incidentally.⁷ It is probable that in the inscriptions which are lost other cases occurred, since in two which remain⁸ no notice of the sign is taken by the editors. In one case the line is used in the same inscription to denote both the singular and the plural. The origin of this mode of expressing abbreviation is not clear. It is possible that in the case of certain letters, as V, M, D, and C, the mode may have arisen from the use of a line with the same letters used as numerals. Its transference to other initial letters would not then be difficult.

2

*Terentiae.**Flavolae.**Ṽ · Ṽ ·*

MAXIMAE
CN · STATILIVS
MENANDER
FICTOR
V · V ·

*Cn. Statili.**Cerdonis.**Fictoris.**Ṽ · Ṽ ·**Alumnus.*

C. I. L. VI, 32423.

This inscription as published in the Corpus is seen to be upon a stone broken both at the top and bottom. It is probable, there-

¹ C. I. L. VI, 32409.² *Ṽ · Ṽ ·* or *Ṽ · Ṽ ·*; *Ṽ · Ṽ ·*.³ L. c. VI, 32409-13 (3 times), 32414.⁴ L. c. 32415-16, 32418 (2 times)—19.⁵ L. c. 2146 (= XIV, 4120), 2147-48; XIV, 3677 (from Tibur).⁶ L. c. 2130, 2134.⁷ L. c. 27132 a, 27133-34.⁸ L. c. 2130, 2146. A few fragmentary inscriptions I have been unable to see. The list here given, where it differs from the Corpus, has been corrected from the stones themselves.

fore, that we have but the middle part of the original inscription. Since, so far as it is left, it is the same in form and content as C. I. L. VI, 32413, it is probably a duplicate of that inscription and is to be completed as here given.

3

FL · PVBLICIAE · V · V · MAX ·
 SANCTISSIMAE · ET · PIISSI
 MAE · AC SVPER · OMNES ·
 RETRO · RELIGIOSISSIMAE
 5 PVRISSIMAE · CASTISSIMAEQVE ·
 CVIVS · RELIGIOSAM ·
 CVRAM · SACRORVM · ET ·
 MORVM · PRAEDICABLEM ·
 DISCIPLINAM · NVMEN QVOQVE
 10 VESTAE · CONPROVABIT · sic
 Q · VETVRIVS · MEMPHIVS · V · É ·
 FICTOR · V · V · DIGNATIONES · sic
 ERGA SE · HONORISQVE · CAVSA ·
 PLVRIMIS · IN SE · CONLATIS ·
 15 BENEFICIIS ·

C. I. L. VI, 32419.

L. 10. Huelsen reads COMPROBAVIT.

L. 12. DIGNATIONES. Cf. C. I. L. VI, 2134, where the correct spelling is found.

In this inscription and one of those earlier published, C. I. L. VI, 2134, we have an interesting example of duplicate honorary inscriptions. In the year 1549, the earlier of these was excavated in the presence of Pighius,¹ presumably in the precinct, though not in the Atrium, of Vesta.² The later inscription, that here given, was found Jan. 27th, 1884, *in situ* in a room on the south side of the Atrium.³ The two inscriptions are identical in wording, except that in the earlier one in l. 12 in place of *dignationes* the correct spelling *dignationis* was found.⁴ On the other hand, the mistake in l. 10, where *conprovabit* is used for *comprobat*,

¹ See p. 1, n. 3.

² Lanciani (Storia degli Scavi di Roma, II, p. 203) notes that the Atrium itself was not reached by the excavators, since it lay within the bounds of the Farnese possessions, within which no excavations were allowed.

³ Bull. Arch. Com., 1884, p. 5.

⁴ No variation in reading is found.

occurred, it is clear, in the lost inscription also.¹ The inscriptions differed in the division of the lines and, if the reports of the editors be accepted, in the punctuation. While, however, the two inscriptions are clearly duplicates, or the one a copy of the other, the one found in 1549 was peculiar in the presence of a supplementary inscription on the left side of the base, containing originally the names of the consuls of the year.² In the inscription now in the Forum not only is this date lacking, but there is no space on the side of the base at all adapted for it. It is probable from the length of the lines of the inscription that the earlier base was square, not hexagonal.

The existence of duplicate inscriptions,—suggesting the existence of duplicate statues, also,—within the same precinct is peculiar. Since, however, the earlier base was found outside the Atrium proper, it is probable that of the two statues erected at one time by the same donor, the one was set up in the temple area and the other in the Atrium where it was found. Such also may have been the arrangement in the case of the duplicate inscriptions described above.³

4

Calpurnia
præte XTATA
v. V
maxiMA

C. I. L. VI, 32410.

This inscription is placed by Huelsen immediately after that in honor of Praetextata, the daughter of Crassus.⁴ It seems more likely, however, that it is to be referred to Calpurnia Praetextata, whose name and title appear on a bronze tablet in form and arrangement identical with that of the inscription here given, so far as it remains.⁵

5

OB MERITVM CASTITATIS
PVDICITIAE ADQ · IN SACRIS
RELIGIONIBVSQVE
DOCTRINAE MIRABILIS
C · !!!!!!!!! E · V · V · MAX · etc.

C. I. L. VI, 32422.

¹ See C. I. L. VI, 2134 for the various readings of early editors. The reading of Pighius, an accurate observer, is the same as that of the existing inscription.

² See l. c.

³ P. 176.

⁴ C. I. L. VI, 32409.

⁵ L. c. VI, 2146.

Concerning the identity of the Vestalis Maxima, who by the erasure of her name has won such unfortunate distinction, as well as concerning the nature of her offence, no little discussion has arisen. Marucchi,¹ followed by many later editors, basing his suggestion upon the general date of the inscription and the presence of C as the initial letter of the name which has been erased, suggested that she was the Claudia referred to by Prudentius² as a convert to Christianity. Interesting as the suggestion is and not without possibility, when considered from the point of view of external evidence, the evidence of the inscription itself is decisive against it. Though at the beginning of the line there remain, as has been said, clear traces of the letter C, the number of the letters following it, of which some traces remain at the top and bottom, cannot have been less than nine, while for Claudiae but six would be required. Any identification, therefore, with the Claudia of Prudentius—who, moreover, may be but a type and not a real character—is impossible.

ESTHER BOISE VAN DEMAN.

ROME, June, 1907.

¹ Gli Studi in Italia, 1883, II, p. 601, desc. della casa delle vestali, p. 79 f.

² Peristeph. 2, 527.